

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-16, and 21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 10, 15, 16, and 21 are amended. Claims 18-20 are cancelled by this amendment. No new claims are added by this amendment.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search and therefore, respectfully requests that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 1 and 20 were objected to as including minor informalities. In response to this objection, claim 1 is amended as suggested in paragraph 2 of the August 25, 2005 Office Action. Further, claim 20 is cancelled by this amendment, thereby rendering the objection to claim 20 moot.

Applicants respectfully request that the objections to amended claim 1 be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Claim 15 is amended to delete the word “optionally” indicated by the Examiner as causing claim 15 to be indefinite.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-16 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Komardin et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,175,117, herein Komardin) in view of Francke (U.S. Patent No. 6,476,397). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons detailed below.

Amended independent claims 1 and 16 recite an apparatus and method, respectively, for obtaining coherent scatter imaging data of an examination object. Amended claims 1 and 16 recite, *inter alia*, the following:

- said line detector units **are direction sensitive and directed towards different positions along the trajectory of said radiation beam in said examination object** so that **different** fan-shaped ray bundles of said radiation beam as coherently scattered in **different** small portions of said examination object **enter different ones of said line detector units** and are detected therein. (Emphasis added)

Further, amended independent claim 10 recites an apparatus for obtaining coherent scatter imaging data of an examination object, wherein

- a radiation detector arrangement comprising a stack of line detector units, **all of which being direction sensitive and directed towards a single small portion of a trajectory of said radiation beam in said examination object** to allow substantially fan-shaped ray bundles of said radiation beam as coherently scattered in said examination object **in different angles to enter different ones of said line detector units** and be detected therein. (Emphasis added).

Amended claim 21 recites a method, which corresponds to amended claim 10, including

- **directing a plurality of direction sensitive line detector units** arranged in a stack **towards a single small portion of a trajectory of said radiation beam in said examination object** to allow substantially fan-shaped ray bundles of said radiation beam as coherently scattered in said examination object **to enter different ones of said line detector units**. (Emphasis added)

Applicants respectfully submit that at least the above-emphasized features of amended independent claims 1, 10, 16, and 21 patentably distinguish over the cited references as explained below.

Komardin describes a tissue analysis apparatus aimed at providing an apparatus that makes a mammography less uncomfortable for the patient being examined. The detector elements 180 of the detector 28 illustrated in FIG. 12 of Komardin are not direction sensitive. Further, the Examiner cites FIG. 6a, 32 as disclosing each stack of line detector units being directed towards a small portion of a trajectory. However, the positions (left, right #32) are along different trajectories and along different beams.

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Komardin fails to disclose, teach or suggest at least the above-emphasized features of amended independent claims 1, 10, 16, and 21.

Francke is directed to utilizing a gaseous-based parallel plate detector for detecting ionizing radiation. As illustrated in FIG. 7 of Francke, the detectors 9 in Francke are all directed towards a single point coinciding with the radiation source.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Francke at least fails to cure the deficiencies of Komardin with respect to amended independent claims 1 and 16 that recite line detector units directed towards “**different positions along the trajectory of said radiation beam.**”

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Francke at least fails to cure the deficiencies of Komardin with respect to amended independent claim 10 that recites line detector units that are all “**directed towards a single small portion of a trajectory of said radiation beam in said**

examination object to allow substantially fan-shaped ray bundles of said radiation beam as coherently scattered in said examination object in different angles to enter different ones of said line detector units.” Similarly, Applicants respectfully submit that Francke at least fails to cure the deficiencies of Komardin with respect to amended independent claim 21 that recites “directing a plurality of direction sensitive line detector units arranged in a stack towards a single small portion of a trajectory of said radiation beam in said examination object to allow substantially fan-shaped ray bundles of said radiation beam as coherently scattered in said examination object to enter different ones of said line detector units.”

In light of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that Komardin and Francke, either alone or in any proper combination, at least fail to disclose the above-emphasized features of amended independent claims 1, 10, 16, and 21.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent claims 1, 10, 16 and 21, as well as claims 3-15 depending therefrom be withdrawn.

Claims 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Grozdzins et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,442,233, herein Grozdzins) in view of Francke. Claims 18-20 are cancelled by this amendment rendering this rejection moot.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present

application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

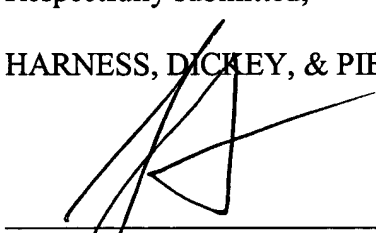
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact John A. Castellano at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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